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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Romania

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-ninth session from 15 to 26 January 2018. The review of Romania was held at the 3rd meeting, on 16 January 2018. The delegation of Romania was headed by the Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Alexandru Victor Micula. At its 10th meeting, held on 19 January 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Romania.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Romania: Iraq, Nigeria and Ukraine.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Romania:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/ROU/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/ROU/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/ROU/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Czechia, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Romania through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation stated that Romania had held presidential, parliamentary and local, as well as European Parliament elections, since its second universal period review in 2013. During the reporting period, the Government had taken several measures to improve its institutional and legislative framework relating to the protection of human rights.

6. The national report was structured in line with the recommendations from the second review, a large number of which concerned protection from discrimination, particularly against the Roma. The national report highlighted the importance that the authorities attached to that subject and provided information on several achievements in that regard. It outlined the main measures that had been taken to end segregation in education, integrate Roma culture into the school curricula, and improve the access of the Roma to the labour market and the health-care system. The strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority 2015–2020 took into account recommendations from the European Union.

7. Furthermore, Romania had continued to invest in social housing programmes for Roma communities. The eviction of tenants and the demolition of buildings constructed without authorization on State land had been carried out in accordance with the national legislation, providing a judicial review and legal guarantees against forced evictions. The Government had also taken several special measures to address barriers that the Roma had been facing in the area of housing.

8. Romania had continued to pursue a policy aimed at preventing and sanctioning all forms of discrimination. The Government had developed and adopted the "Equality, Inclusion, Diversity" Strategy 2016–2020, based on the recommendations of the Council of Europe and the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. It built on the

2007–2013 strategy and on the need to ensure greater coherence in the implementation of anti-discrimination legislation. Additionally, many sectoral strategies concerning human rights contained provisions on combating discrimination. Awareness-raising activities had been carried out in the framework of those strategies in order to effectively achieve the desired results. For example, between 2015 and 2017, several public awareness-raising campaigns had been carried out and professional training delivered on gender equality.

9. The National Council for Combating Discrimination had become increasingly effective in its work. It had received a growing number of petitions over the reporting period. It had also received more requests to provide its expert opinion on judicial proceedings. The courts had continued to play an important role in ensuring respect of the principle of non-discrimination by giving due consideration to European and international practices.

10. The Government attributed great importance to the protection of the rights of persons belonging to vulnerable groups. It had therefore adopted a series of normative acts to improve protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. A national strategy for 2016–2020 entitled "A society without barriers for persons with disabilities" aimed to ensure the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and embraced the vision of the European Disability Strategy 2010–2020. The national strategy underlined the authorities' commitment to improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities.

11. Several measures had been taken regarding the legal representation of persons with disabilities during the reporting period. For example, a new law adopted in 2016 provided for the creation of a council to monitor the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in general and in particular, to review the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in residential institutions and to follow up cases of deaths in such institutions. The Prosecutor General had set out clear guidelines on how to conduct effective investigations into reports of violations of the rights of persons with disabilities. The Prosecutor's Office had taken several measures to ensure that crimes perpetrated against persons with disabilities in residential institutions or against individuals placed in mental health institutions were effectively investigated.

12. The Government continued to pursue efforts to reduce child poverty, including by relying on financial support from the European Union. All the national strategies addressing the social exclusion of different groups of vulnerable children set a requirement for an integrated national response to address the multiple drivers of inequality. The provision of individualized and integrated support through single entry points or personalized case managers could improve the effectiveness and efficiency of social services. The National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption had strengthened its capacity to develop new, evidence-based policies for deinstitutionalization by making use of funds from the European Union.

13. Additionally, in 2017, Parliament had adopted a law establishing the Ombudsman for Children, following recommendations from several United Nations human rights bodies. Thus, Romania would have an independent institution to supervise the way children's rights were respected nationwide in 2018.

14. Measures had also been taken to address violence against children. Several awareness-raising campaigns conducted by the Government in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and civil society organizations had contributed to the recognition of various forms of violence and abuse. The number of reported cases of physical violence and neglect had increased. In 2016, Romania had become a pioneer in the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, committing to identify and operationalize initiatives to end violence against children, and to deliver comprehensive prevention and response services against violence.

15. The National Agency against Trafficking in Persons had been managing an integrated system for maintaining regular contact with the victims of human trafficking. The system contained data on victims of human trafficking identified in Romania, as well as Romanian citizens identified as victims abroad.

16. The Romanian Constitution and other laws provided guarantees for the independence of the judiciary. The national strategy for the development of the judiciary 2015–2020 and its subsequent action plan aimed at improving the efficiency of the judiciary. To date, the work on developing a comprehensive legislative framework on the functioning of the judiciary had been completed.

17. The national report outlined the efforts of the Government to address prison overcrowding. Significant progress had been made by reducing the shortage of detention places from 18,000 in 2012 to 4,300 in 2018. That issue would be fully addressed in the near future.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

18. During the interactive dialogue, 78 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

19. Australia commended Romania for the progress made in implementing reforms concerning anti-corruption and the judiciary. It encouraged Romania to continue its efforts towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Australia expressed concern about reports of discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

20. Israel commended Romania for its role as a chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. It noted the importance of the work of the National Council for Combating Discrimination and the measures taken to prevent discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

21. Italy welcomed the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention), the adoption of the new Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes, the establishment of a department on prevention of torture within the Ombudsman's Office and the measures aiming at Roma inclusion.

22. Japan welcomed the efforts of Romania to combat human trafficking, and the re-establishment of the National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption and legislative measures to protect the rights of children.

23. Malaysia was encouraged by the efforts of Romania to make education at all levels more accessible to a wider section of the population, including by setting up inclusive education centres, increasing access to education for children with special needs and adopting a national strategy to prevent children from dropping out of school.

24. Maldives commended Romania for the steps it had taken to strengthen the judiciary. Maldives was encouraged by the Government's efforts to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, and welcomed the relevant national strategy.

25. Mexico welcomed the progress made towards eliminating discrimination against women and promoting gender equality, including the establishment of the National Agency for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and the adoption of the national strategy.

26. Mongolia noted that issues such as gender inequality, domestic violence, women living in poverty, women's employment, the wage gap and discrimination required serious attention. It expressed concern at the situation in the health sector.

27. Montenegro commended Romania for the progress achieved in judicial reform, fighting corruption and human rights protection overall. It encouraged Romania to continue strengthening inclusive policies, particularly in education, social and health protection and access to the labour market.

28. Morocco welcomed the fact that Romania was considering ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and its efforts in the field of human rights education, including professional training.

29. Mozambique commended Romania for its ratification of several international human rights instruments, which demonstrated its political commitment to protecting and fulfilling the rights of its people.

30. The Netherlands welcomed the ratification by Romania of the Istanbul Convention and urged it to expedite the process of harmonizing national legislation with the provisions of the Convention.

31. Norway noted the efforts of Romania to reform the judiciary and to fight corruption. Norway stated that Roma children and children with disabilities faced discrimination, despite progress made in those areas.

32. Panama acknowledged the efforts of the Government to improve the legislative and institutional framework and the measures targeting the judiciary, corruption, human trafficking and discrimination against children. It noted challenges in ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities, older persons and minorities.

33. Peru noted the efforts of Romania to protect human rights, including its strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority and the inclusion of an intercultural perspective in the school curriculum.

34. The Philippines commended Romania for its policy to combat all forms of discrimination and for the broad consultations conducted in the process of adopting a national anti-discrimination strategy. It noted the "Equality, Inclusion, Diversity" Strategy 2016–2020.

35. Portugal thanked Romania for its comprehensive national report.

36. Qatar noted various legislative and institutional measures taken by Romania to implement the recommendations from the previous review and appreciated the annual increase in the budget to address challenges in the education system, including the number of children who dropped out of school.

37. The Republic of Korea commended Romania for its National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2016–2020 and for legislative measures to combat human trafficking. It urged Romania to strengthen its ongoing efforts to ensure social and economic justice and inclusiveness.

38. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the national strategies concerning children, persons with disabilities and the Roma, and the results achieved from the introduction of legislative measures to combat human trafficking, child sexual exploitation and violence against women.

39. The Russian Federation expressed concern about the situation of the Roma and about cases of child labour. It noted problems in ensuring the independence of the judiciary and in enforcing judicial decisions, and delays in the administration of justice.

40. Senegal commended Romania for its national strategies to protect persons with disabilities and the Roma minority, and to combat poverty. It welcomed the National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption, and legislation on human trafficking.

41. Serbia noted the establishment of institutions relating to human rights, including for the prevention of torture, inclusive education and national minorities. It encouraged the authorities to continue to ensure that hate speech was not tolerated and that perpetrators were brought to justice.

42. Sierra Leone noted the adoption of strategies on the rights of children and on mental health, and the criminalization of human trafficking. It encouraged Romania to intensify its efforts to protect the rights of Roma children and children with disabilities.

43. Slovenia noted with regret the high rate of teenage pregnancies, which could be attributed to the absence of a strategy on reproductive health. It commended Romania for its measures to protect the rights of children, including to improve their access to health care and education.

44. Spain welcomed the commitment of Romania to ensure gender equality and to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the women and peace and security agenda.

45. The State of Palestine was concerned about racist hate crimes against the Roma and negative stereotypes in public and political speech, despite efforts to combat discrimination. It welcomed the steps Romania had taken regarding business and human rights.

46. Sweden acknowledged the continued work of Romania to fulfil its human rights obligations and encouraged further efforts.

47. Switzerland welcomed efforts aimed at combating segregation in the education system. It noted shortcomings in the fields of adequate housing, education and health care, and the fact that poverty and social exclusion affected a large number of Romanian children.

48. Timor-Leste welcomed the adoption of national strategies on the inclusion of the Roma, on the protection of the rights of children and on mental health. It remained concerned about widespread discrimination against the Roma.

49. Tunisia praised Romania for its efforts to establish an institutional framework for the protection of human rights and for adopting strategies relating to the protection of the rights of children.

50. Turkmenistan noted that the Government had involved civil society organizations in the preparation of the national report. It also noted the national policy on ensuring equality and inclusion of minorities.

51. Ukraine welcomed the steps taken by Romania to ensure that the Romanian Institute for Human Rights was in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). It also welcomed the constructive approach to the protection of the rights of national minorities through dialogue and cooperation.

52. The United Kingdom welcomed efforts to improve prison conditions, and the ratification of the Istanbul Convention. It encouraged more action on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.

53. The United States, while commending the commitment of Romania to promoting human rights, expressed concern about legislative amendments that could undermine judicial independence, reports of unfair treatment of religious minorities and insufficient progress in combating discrimination against the Roma.

54. Uruguay, while commending the efforts of Romania to protect the rights of children, hoped that Romania would implement a previous review recommendation on birth registration. It noted the persistence of hate speech against the Roma, discrimination against vulnerable groups and gender discrimination.

55. The delegation of Romania stated that the Government had consolidated a comprehensive system to combat discrimination in line with the standards of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the European Union. Within the framework of preventive measures, the Government had organized public awareness campaigns and provided training for relevant professionals, including judges, law enforcement officers and public officials. The judiciary had gained substantial knowledge and experience in dealing with cases of discrimination in accordance with international standards. While the number of reported cases had increased, underreporting remained a problem. The legislative and institutional frameworks on combating discrimination had been effective and accessible to victims of discrimination who sought redress. The Government had drafted a national anti-discrimination strategy.

56. Perpetrators of hate speech had been prosecuted and sanctioned, regardless of their background, including their status as public figures.

57. The Government had taken significant steps to ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities in education, particularly by revising the relevant procedure to provide social benefits for children with disabilities when accessing education. The amount of social

benefits for persons with disabilities, including children, had been significantly increased. The Government had officially recognized sign language as a communication tool.

58. The Government had taken measures to reinforce the 4 per cent employment quota system for persons with disabilities and it had been respected, including by public institutions. To that end, sanctions had been increased for non-compliance with the quota. In 2017, the Government had assessed a large number of public institutions to ensure their accessibility for persons with disabilities. It had taken practical measures to foster the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities and support their transition to community-based services, including by allocating significant financial resources. It had made efforts to remove barriers to ensure the social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

59. The National Agency for Roma would continue updating the National Action Plan for Roma, by taking into account recommendations from the European Union and the 2017–2020 government programme, which was aimed at developing and implementing sustainable policies in order to reduce the gap between the Roma and non-Roma populations, promoting diversity and combating discrimination. The Agency would continue to develop a monitoring and evaluation system in order to measure progress in the social inclusion of the Roma. It would also set up a task force to implement specific solutions for housing and eviction issues.

60. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela praised several measures that had been taken to promote the rights of children with disabilities and access to education for children from vulnerable families, prevent discrimination against the Roma, strengthen the judiciary, combat human trafficking, prevent domestic violence and reduce infant mortality.

61. Viet Nam commended the adoption of laws on access to education for children from disadvantaged families and to health care and community services for disadvantaged people.

62. Afghanistan commended legislative steps in the fields of non-discrimination and gender equality, following up on recommendations from the previous review.

63. Albania commended strategies and efforts to strengthen the judiciary and improve education, as well as the anti-corruption measures taken since the previous review. It welcomed efforts to strengthen the institutional human rights framework to comply with the Paris Principles.

64. Algeria welcomed measures taken to implement recommendations from the previous review relating to the judiciary, the fight against corruption and the rights of vulnerable groups. It welcomed steps to improve access to education and housing.

65. Andorra praised the efforts of Romania to ratify international human rights instruments.

66. Angola commended Romania for its continuing commitment to the human rights treaty bodies.

67. Armenia appreciated the legislative measures taken to protect the rights of children and encouraged Romania to pursue those efforts. It welcomed steps taken to combat human trafficking, including the adoption of legislation and the provision of training to relevant professionals.

68. Ireland acknowledged the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and the increased spending on education. It urged Romania to tackle societal prejudice towards national minorities and allocate resources to implement the strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority 2015–2020.

69. While commending Romania for its progress in human rights, Austria expressed concern over the dire housing situation of the Roma and about the social marginalization, ill-treatment and inadequate living conditions of persons with disabilities.

70. Azerbaijan recognized the efforts of Romania to increase the quality and accountability of the justice system, including the strategy for the development of the judiciary, and to prevent and combat corruption through the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

71. Belarus noted the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the adoption of the strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority 2015–2020. It stated that additional efforts were required to achieve progress on social issues.

72. Belgium noted the positive measures taken by Romania to implement the recommendations from the previous review. Nevertheless, additional action should be taken to strengthen human rights protection in accordance with international human rights treaties, particularly in the area of non-discrimination.

73. The Plurinational State of Bolivia requested additional information on the experience of Romania in promoting breastfeeding. It invited Romania to participate and support the draft declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

74. Brazil acknowledged the accession of Romania to the statelessness conventions, but was concerned that the citizenship law did not provide safeguards against statelessness for children born in the territory who would otherwise be stateless.

75. Bulgaria highlighted the efforts of Romania to prevent and combat corruption and ensure institutional transparency in the public sector. It commended the legislative amendments introduced to achieve equality between men and women and to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

76. Canada encouraged Romania to take further steps to improve health care, housing and employment and increase access to education for the Roma. It supported efforts to counter domestic violence and violence against women.

77. Chad commended Romania for putting in place institutional mechanisms for the implementation of laws and policies for the protection of human rights. It welcomed the adoption of the 2016–2020 national strategy entitled "A society without barriers for persons with disabilities".

78. Chile congratulated Romania for establishing an interministerial committee to combat domestic violence, and welcomed efforts to improve prison conditions. It noted current challenges, such as discrimination against the Roma.

79. China praised the progress made by Romania in the protection of human rights. It noted with appreciation the strengthening of the legislative framework and the significant developments in the education and health sectors and the promotion of gender equality.

80. Côte d'Ivoire appreciated the reforms undertaken by the Government to follow up on recommendations from the previous review. It welcomed the adoption of the action plan for the implementation of the strategy for the development of the judiciary 2015–2020.

81. Croatia welcomed the national strategy on the protection and promotion of children's rights 2014–2020. It encouraged Romania to continue pursuing its efforts to implement the legislative framework on domestic violence and to ensure more efficient assistance to the victims of violence.

82. Cuba acknowledged the measures taken by the Government that were highlighted in the national report and demonstrated the commitment of Romania to addressing the current challenges in the area of human rights. It noted the improvements that had been made to ensure the protection of the rights of children, particularly Roma children and children with disabilities.

83. Cyprus noted the criminalization of all offences relating to human trafficking under the new Criminal Code and the measures taken to improve the inclusion of the Roma. It encouraged Romania to continue its efforts to combat all forms of discrimination, including through the adoption of a national strategy.

84. Czechia acknowledged the progress made in several human rights areas and encouraged Romania to pursue its efforts.

85. Egypt took note of the positive developments in the human rights situation in Romania.

86. Estonia called on Romania to provide sufficient resources to the mechanisms aimed at protecting the rights of children. It expected that the new anti-corruption strategy would assist in addressing corruption effectively. Estonia was concerned about attempts to restrict the media and harass journalists.

87. Finland welcomed the legislative changes ensuring that all children born in hospital received a national identity document, and the adoption of the law on promoting participation in preschool education of children from disadvantaged families. It was imperative that decisive action be taken to implement that law.

88. France highlighted the importance of pursuing the efforts made to fight corruption.

89. Georgia commended Romania for ratifying the Istanbul Convention. It welcomed the adoption of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2016–2020.

90. Germany commended Romania for the progress made with regard to the work of the National Council for Combating Discrimination. It remained concerned about the human rights situation of persons from vulnerable groups, including the Roma and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

91. Ghana commended Romania for the progress made in the area of human rights, including the adoption of laws to protect the rights of children and of persons with disabilities and to combat domestic violence. It expressed concern about discrimination against Roma children, children with disabilities and refugee children.

92. Greece expressed appreciation for the effective implementation by Romania of the two national anti-corruption strategies. It also welcomed the importance attributed to human rights education, particularly the professional training provided for schoolteachers, judges and lawyers.

93. Honduras welcomed the action taken by Romania to implement the recommendations received during the previous review cycles. It praised the progress made in combating corruption and policies to fight against trafficking in persons.

94. Hungary noted its efforts to build a relationship with Romania based on mutual respect. It stated that a recent public statement by a representative of the Government of Romania, containing threats against a national minority, was inconsistent with international human rights values.

95. Iceland welcomed the work that had been carried out to promote inclusive education and reduce discrimination in schools between Roma and non-Roma, while noting that further improvements were needed, as highlighted in the national report.

96. India welcomed the establishment of the National Commission for Desegregation and Educational Inclusion, the department on prevention of torture in places of detention within the Ombudsman's Office and the National Agency for the Administration of Seized Assets. It noted the continued efforts of the Government on the inclusion of the Roma community.

97. Indonesia commended Romania for its efforts to develop human rights education and training for democratic citizenship, as well as measures to guarantee the rights of migrants.

98. The Islamic Republic of Iran noted the action plan for the implementation of the strategy for the development of the judiciary 2015–2020 and the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2016–2020.

99. Iraq welcomed the adoption of the action plan for the implementation of the strategy for the development of the judiciary 2015–2020 and the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, and the amendments to some national legislation.

100. Slovakia commended Romania for its efforts to address human rights issues and improve the legislative framework. It valued the adoption of two national strategies, one relating to the protection of the rights of children and one to mental health.

101. Argentina highlighted the section of the national report concerning vulnerable groups, children, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and hate crimes.

102. The delegation of Romania said that efforts were being made to modernize detention facilities and reduce prison overcrowding. Renovations to existing prisons and the construction of new buildings helped address issues relating to detention conditions and the shortage of detention places. The construction of two new penitentiaries had been planned by 2023. Investment in penitentiary infrastructure had been funded by the State budget, as would continue to be the case. In addition, financial support had been received from the Government of Norway, and loans had been made by international organizations. The Government had also taken several measures to address the shortage of prison staff and ensure effective management of prison incidents. The Government had prepared a detailed timetable, covering the period to 2024, to overcome prison overcrowding, improve detention conditions and ensure that effective remedies were available to compensate for damages caused in the past as a result of those issues.

103. Combating human trafficking remained a priority for the Government. The national strategy against trafficking of human beings 2012–2016 has focused on prevention and protection measures. A large part of the educational and awareness-raising activities had targeted groups that were particularly vulnerable to human trafficking. Romania had taken measures to improve victim identification and to ensure effective investigation of cases of human trafficking and prosecution of perpetrators, including seizing the assets of and profits made by human traffickers. It had strengthened international cooperation in order to fight trafficking in human beings effectively through increased participation in joint investigation teams for human trafficking cases.

104. As a result of legislative reforms implemented in 2014, particularly amendments to the Civil Code, the number of persons deprived of liberty had fallen and the use of alternative measures of punishment had increased. The Government had ensured that human rights non-governmental organizations (NGOs) had increased access to places of police detention in order to carry out monitoring visits.

105. The Government had taken several measures to build trust and understanding between the police and the Roma minority, which had resulted in an increase in the number of police officers of Roma origin. The Police Academy provided professional training on the protection of human rights and combating discrimination. Between 2013 and 2016, over 300 police officers had received training in the Romani language and culture. To better connect with the needs of the Roma community, specialized community policing for the Roma communities had been set up in 2013, with financial support from the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme. An advisory committee had been set up to study police interventions in multi-ethnic communities and put forward recommendations on how to effectively organize and carry out such actions, as well as document and disseminate good practices in the field of Roma-police relations. Additionally, since 2017 police officers had been receiving training on the Holocaust.

106. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has been promoting gender equality among law enforcement officers. There were currently over 10,000 women police officers. The current Minister of Internal Affairs was the first woman to head a ministry in Romania.

107. The new amendments to the law on the Ombudsman had introduced provisions to ensure the full compliance of the Ombudsman's Office with the Paris Principles, which would assist in its accreditation as a national human rights institution. The Ombudsman's Office had been allocated an adequate budget for 2018 for its effective functioning under the expanded mandate.

108. The Ombudsman for Children had been established under new legislation and could receive complaints concerning violations of the rights of children and carry out anonymous visits to detention centres, foster-care centres and educational and health institutions. The Ombudsman had been authorized to file criminal complaints for cases of violence against and abuse of a child. Romania would carefully consider the issue of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

109. The relevant laws and strategies provided the necessary guarantees for the protection of children against violence in all settings. The legal framework provided for effective

cooperation among the relevant State bodies, including local authorities, to effectively protect children.

110. Several State officials involved in addressing domestic violence had received specialized training. The law on combating domestic violence provided victims of domestic violence with special protection, as well as rehabilitation, social reintegration and medical services. A helpline for victims of domestic violence was in operation in the country. The number of prosecutions relating to cases of domestic violence had increased. Judges had received specialized training on domestic violence.

111. From January 2018, prosecutor's offices had been collecting disaggregated data based on all the forms of discrimination enumerated in the Criminal Code. Special hearing rooms for children had been established in several courts.

112. The implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2016–2020 was being monitored by the Ministry of Justice through the technical secretariat of the Strategy.

113. The delegation considered that the statement made by one State Member of the United Nations in relation to a declaration made by a representative of the Government of Romania to be an example of fake news, and suggested that the content of that declaration be verified in order to avoid such a mistake. The delegation thanked all States Members of the United Nations that had taken part in the interactive dialogue. The authorities of Romania remained committed to promoting and protecting the human rights of every individual. The Government would continue to make every effort to implement the highest standards in that area, in accordance with its international commitments.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

114. **The following recommendations will be examined by Romania, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council:**

114.1 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Montenegro) (Panama);**

114.2 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Honduras);**

114.3 **Continue its efforts aimed at ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);**

114.4 **Ratify, as soon as possible, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Japan);**

114.5 **Ratify the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Panama);**

114.6 **Consider ratifying the ILO Domestic Workers Convention (Philippines);**

114.7 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Morocco) (Philippines);**

114.8 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt);**

114.9 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Timor-Leste) (Chile);**

114.10 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras);**

114.11 **Ratify, among others, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Mozambique);**

114.12 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Cyprus);**

114.13 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Honduras);**

114.14 **Sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Spain);**

114.15 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Chile);**

114.16 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**

114.17 **Sign the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Spain);**

114.18 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Andorra) (Czechia) (Slovakia);**

114.19 **Sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Spain);**

114.20 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Albania);**

114.21 **Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and to the Optional Protocols to which it is committed, notably the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Sierra Leone);**

114.22 **Ratify the Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression (Andorra);**

114.23 **Consider recognizing the competence of the Committee against Torture to receive individual communications in accordance with article 22 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Morocco);**

114.24 **Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

114.25 **Ensure the compliance of the national human rights institution with the Paris Principles (Qatar);**

114.26 **Ensure the Romanian Institute for Human Rights is in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Republic of Korea);**

114.27 **Ensure that its Institute for Human Rights is in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Timor-Leste);**

114.28 **Finalize the process of accreditation of national human rights institutions with the status responding to the Paris Principles (Ukraine);**

114.29 **Ensure the proper functioning of the newly established Children's Ombudsman in accordance with the Paris Principles (Republic of Moldova);**

114.30 **Pursue all necessary steps with the aim of establishing an ombudsperson for children's rights (Cyprus);**

114.31 **Implement the law on the creation of an independent and autonomous Children's Ombudsperson under the existing Ombudsperson's**

institution with clear objectives and power to protect and to monitor children's rights and to ensure also protection of youth rights (Slovenia);

114.32 **Strengthen the resources of the independent institution on the protection of the rights of children and youth to enable it to function efficiently (Senegal);**

114.33 **Step up efforts for the creation of an independent institution for the protection of the rights of children and youth (Greece);**

114.34 **Consider the establishment or strengthening of the existing national mechanism for coordination, implementation, reporting and follow-up, in line with the elements arising from good practices identified in the 2016 OHCHR guide on national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up (Portugal);**

114.35 **Carry out a comprehensive review of its national system for human rights in order to correct existing duplication between the different component bodies, rationalize resources and render it more effective (Honduras);**

114.36 **Ensure that the modifications to the Justice Laws and Criminal Codes do not impede the human rights of its citizens and take into full consideration the relevant opinion of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (the Venice Commission) (Netherlands);**

114.37 **Comply with the recommendations of the European Commission's Cooperation and Verification Mechanism and make sure those reforms are irreversible and sustainable, in order to allow for the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism to be concluded (Sweden);**

114.38 **Continue to ensure the rule of law, by following the recommendations of the European Union's Cooperation and Verification Mechanism, and by seizing the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe without delay to carry out an evaluation of the reform of the judiciary, of draft legislation regarding the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code, as well as the draft law on the conditions for the functioning of civil society organizations (France);**[1]

114.39 **Implement its strategies on equality, inclusion and diversity, as well as the corresponding operational plans, which will allow it to continue to make progress in the fight against discrimination (Cuba);**

114.40 **Adopt as quickly as possible the Multi-Annual Strategy on Preventing and Combating Discrimination (Germany);**

114.41 **Expedite the approval of the "Equality, Inclusion, Diversity" Strategy 2016–2020 and its Operational Plan aiming at combating discrimination and hate crimes (Indonesia);**

114.42 **Review its national anti-discrimination legislation and polices so as to incorporate all non-discrimination criteria, including gender identity and sexual orientation (Honduras);**

114.43 **Continue efforts to ensure gender equality and promote women's rights (Tunisia);**

114.44 **Harmonize gender equality for guaranteeing equal rights (Turkmenistan);**

[1] The recommendation, as read during the interactive dialogue, was: "Ensure the rule of law, by following the recommendations of the European Union's Cooperation and Verification Mechanism, and by seizing the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe without delay to carry out an evaluation of the reform of the judiciary, of draft legislation regarding the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code, as well as the draft law on the conditions for the functioning of civil society organizations."

114.45 **Adopt a legal mechanism to promote gender equality and social inclusion for all (Angola);**

114.46 **Continue efforts to combat all forms of discrimination and stigmatization, and hate speech (Tunisia);**

114.47 **Eradicate social exclusion and statements of public figures (political or religious) which hamper the sexual health and reproductive rights of women (Uruguay);**

114.48 **Ensure that the National Council for Combating Discrimination increases its efforts to fight discrimination against people belonging to minority and other vulnerable groups (Israel);**

114.49 **Continue to conduct awareness-raising campaigns at the national level aimed at reducing prejudice, hate speech and discrimination against minorities and vulnerable groups (Mexico);**[2]

114.50 **Adopt a law punishing discriminatory and racist statements made in public or in the media against representatives of national minorities (Russian Federation);**

114.51 **Adopt and implement a strategy to combat discrimination against members of minority groups, including religious groups (United States of America);**

114.52 **Take urgent measures to investigate and sanction acts of hatred such as discrimination against migrants, minorities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, in particular those acts carried out by public officials (Argentina);**

114.53 **Combat racial stereotypes and incitement to hatred by intensifying efforts aimed at promoting tolerance, notably with regard to persons belonging to the Roma minority (France);**

114.54 **Continue to combat discrimination and uphold the rights of those marginalized in its society, especially the Roma population (Philippines);**

114.55 **Adopt specific legislative and policy measures, with a gender focus, to combat discrimination against the Roma in law and in practice, which include positive measures to guarantee inclusion in the areas of health, education, housing and employment, particularly in rural areas (Honduras);**

114.56 **Continue efforts to fight prejudice and negative stereotypes that discriminate and exclude the Roma, and in that framework, end illegal forced evictions of the Roma (Peru);**

114.57 **Address the root causes of discrimination and social exclusion faced by Roma, especially prejudices and negative stereotypes (Panama);**

114.58 **Strengthen efforts to eliminate discrimination against Roma and to ensure in particular their access to education, social housing, health care and employment without discrimination (Austria);**

114.59 **Continue to address negative prejudices and stereotypes, which are among the main causes of systemic discrimination and social exclusion experienced by Roma (State of Palestine);**

114.60 **Continue working to eradicate all forms of stigmatization and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Chile);**

[2] The recommendation, as read during the interactive dialogue, was: "Conduct awareness-raising campaigns at the national level aimed at reducing prejudice, hate speech and discrimination against minorities and vulnerable groups."

114.61 **Intensify efforts to combat all forms of discrimination, especially against persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including by promoting a culture of equality and by removing obstacles to the enjoyment of their rights (Italy);**

114.62 **Continue efforts to combat discrimination and protect vulnerable groups, particularly lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, and take steps to fully implement, monitor and evaluate the national strategy on equality and non-discrimination (Australia);**

114.63 **Invest in more training and awareness-raising initiatives for police officers, judges and prosecutors to guarantee effective investigations of crimes against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (Spain);**

114.64 **Develop and implement programmes to counter discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including public awareness campaigns and specialized training for law enforcement officials (Canada);**

114.65 **Increase the organization of awareness-raising campaigns to enhance the understanding of the general population of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, paying particular attention to raising awareness among students (Belgium);**

114.66 **Take active measures to prevent discrimination against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community, for example by including gender identity in the list of criteria of non-discrimination and making provision in law for same-sex civil partnership and marriage (Ireland);**

114.67 **Introduce a civil legal partnership between same-sex couples, and refrain from a referendum on constitutional changes prohibiting same-sex couples from marrying, which would likely increase negative sentiments against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people (Sweden);**

114.68 **Ensure that acts of discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons and persons belonging to other vulnerable groups are properly investigated and perpetrators held accountable (Austria);**

114.69 **Promote more tolerance towards persons belonging to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (Greece);**

114.70 **Launch an awareness-raising programme for the public against negative prejudice and discrimination against persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity and against persons with HIV/AIDS (Czechia);**

114.71 **Adopt a law or a code of conduct prohibiting and criminalizing incitement to hatred, which would apply to political figures and Parliamentarians making racist, homophobic or xenophobic speeches or of any other intolerant nature (Uruguay);**

114.72 **Take measures to prevent hate crimes, in particular driven by racial and discriminatory motives (Republic of Korea);**

114.73 **Take measures to effectively combat hate speech and hate crimes, notably by ensuring that all their forms are specifically addressed and punished by law, as recommended by the treaty bodies (Belgium);**

114.74 **Ensure that the law prohibiting incitement to hatred is applied to all politicians who use racist rhetoric (Côte d'Ivoire);**

114.75 **Take steps to address all reported cases of racist hate crimes committed against the Roma minority, including anti-Roma hate speech rhetoric and negative stereotypes (Ghana);**

114.76 **Collect and publish data on hate crimes that include motivation, for example whether the crime is motivated by a bias against the victim's race,**

religion, sexual orientation or gender identity, or disability status (United States of America);

114.77 **Systematically collect and publish disaggregated statistical data concerning hate crimes, which should include information on the motives of the perpetrators (Germany);**

114.78 **Continue to prevent and combat discrimination in education and health care (Serbia);**

114.79 **Provide funding and human resources in rural areas to reduce and eliminate disparities, with particular focus on access to education, access to birth registration and abolishment of classroom segregation (Norway);**

114.80 **Strengthen measures to reduce inequalities between urban and rural areas, especially on access to basic services (Angola);**

114.81 **Improve the access of the rural population to education and health care (France);**

114.82 **Continue its anti-corruption efforts by fully implementing its National Anti-Corruption Strategy, and entrenching judicial independence (Australia);**

114.83 **Support and intensify efforts to combat corruption by implementing the Anti-Corruption Strategy and safeguarding the work of the National Anti-Corruption Directorate and the High Court of Cassation and Justice (Canada);**

114.84 **Take measures to combat corruption in the health sector (Republic of Korea);**

114.85 **Continue to fight corruption in the heath sector, by taking both criminal action as well as measures to increase awareness of the negative effects of informal payments within the medical profession (France);**

114.86 **Continue its efforts to further improve efficiency, accountability and transparency in the public service of the country (Azerbaijan);**

114.87 **Intensify oversight over Romanian companies operating abroad with regard to any negative impact of their activities on the enjoyment of human rights, particularly in conflict areas, which includes situations of foreign occupation, where there are heightened risks of human rights abuses (State of Palestine);**

114.88 **Continue to strengthen measures to implement legislation against domestic violence (Maldives);**

114.89 **Design and implement a national plan to combat gender-based violence as well as provide greater resources to assist victims (Spain);**

114.90 **Create integrated support services for survivors of sexual violence, including in cases in which the aggressor is not a family member, and amend Law No. 217/2003 on preventing and combating domestic violence in order to expand its scope to all forms of gender-based violence (Portugal);**

114.91 **Develop and adopt a national strategy to combat gender-based violence, amend the law on domestic violence to extend it to cover all forms of gender-based violence and ensure that the revised law is fully implemented (Chad);**

114.92 **Continue with efforts to ensure broader access of victims of gender-based and domestic violence to justice and regulate clearly their protections (Croatia);**

114.93 **Monitor the implementation of the amended law on combating domestic violence and use the results to further improve the prosecution of**

domestic violence and ensure that all perpetrators are adequately punished (Czechia);

114.94 **Strengthen programmes to fight domestic violence (Iraq);**

114.95 **Reject legislation weakening the rule of law and endangering the fight against corruption (United States of America);**

114.96 **Continue judicial reforms and fight corruption in line with international standards (Norway);**

114.97 **Finalize the reform of the judiciary (Senegal);**

114.98 **Preserve and reinforce the independence of the judiciary to ensure the sustainability of governance reforms through the implementation of the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism recommendations set forth by the European Commission (Canada);**

114.99 **Take measures to reform the judicial branch and to enhance the effectiveness of the work of the Prosecutor's Office and the level of professional capacity of its staff (Russian Federation);**

114.100 **Develop a national strategy to facilitate access to justice for vulnerable groups, including by providing training on human rights to the staff of the judiciary (Mexico);**

114.101 **Adopt legislative measures to include proportional punishment for illegal and cruel treatment of detainees and prisoners (Russian Federation);**

114.102 **Take measures to identify and prevent the activities of criminal groups using children in illegal businesses, including prostitution and pornography (Russian Federation);**

114.103 **Remove any existing restriction to the practice of pro bono legal advice, counselling or services provided by lawyers to those in need of legal aid who are unable to afford legal representation (Portugal);**

114.104 **Ensure that all persons deprived of their liberty by the police have the right to a defence and to hold discussions with a lawyer, as provided for in Romanian law (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

114.105 **Ensure all allegations of ill-treatment committed by law enforcement officers are promptly and effectively investigated (Austria);**

114.106 **Direct further focus to safeguarding freedom of expression and media freedom (Estonia);**

114.107 **Intensify efforts to combat modern slavery by protecting the rights of victims, including their right to anonymity, and provide assistance to victims, including, where appropriate, shelter, counselling and a 24/7 hotline (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

114.108 **Take further measures to combat human trafficking and to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice (Armenia);**

114.109 **Further intensify its efforts to prevent human trafficking by investigating cases proactively, bringing offenders to successful prosecution and imposing proportionate sanctions (Ireland);**

114.110 **Continue the national efforts aimed at combating trafficking in persons and exploitation of children (Egypt);**

114.111 **Pursue efforts aimed at preventing, suppressing and combating human trafficking to ensure that the objectives of the national strategy against trafficking in persons are achieved (Ghana);**

114.112 **Continue the fight against trafficking in human beings and engagement in regional and international cooperation in this respect (Bulgaria);**

114.113 **Continue to effectively combat human trafficking through legislative and administrative measures (China);**

114.114 **Strengthen its national strategy against trafficking in persons, and include preventive measures aimed at addressing the vulnerable situation of women (Honduras);**

114.115 **Intensify the efforts aimed at preventing trafficking for the purposes of labour exploitation and trafficking of children (Iraq);**

114.116 **Intensify its efforts to prevent trafficking for the purposes of labour exploitation and trafficking in children, and improve the timely identification of victims of human trafficking (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

114.117 **Strengthen efforts to fight against human trafficking and economic and social exploitation and enhance assistance to victims (Italy);**

114.118 **Steadily implement the relevant domestic laws and its national strategy aimed at eradicating human trafficking (Japan);**

114.119 **Step up efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking, especially for the purposes of sexual and labour exploitation and forced begging through timely detection and assistance to victims (Panama);**

114.120 **Continue the ongoing efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, especially trafficking of children, and protect them from sexual exploitation (Tunisia);**

114.121 **Continue its efforts to prevent, suppress and combat human trafficking (Timor-Leste);**

114.122 **Continue the efforts to enable tangible progress in combating trafficking in persons (Turkmenistan);**

114.123 **Take consolidated measures in order to ensure effective rehabilitation services for the victims of trafficking, exploitation and violence against women (Republic of Moldova);**

114.124 **Continue strengthening the national measures aimed at providing protection to the family as the natural and basic unit of society (Egypt);**

114.125 **Introduce a dedicated legal framework or amend the existing labour legislation in order to promote the regulation of paid and quality internships (Portugal);**

114.126 **Continue to promote economic and social development, promote employment and further raise people's living standards (China);**

114.127 **Continue efforts so that workers in the agricultural sector fully enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights (Peru);**

114.128 **Continue consolidating its social policies and human rights, especially in the field of economic, social and cultural rights, in order to increase the standard of living of its people, in particular of the most vulnerable sectors of the population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

114.129 **Strengthen policies to guarantee the human right to water in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

114.130 **Focus more on improving the quality of health services, paying special attention to child and maternal mortality (Mongolia);**

114.131 **Introduce further measures to sustain and reinforce progress made in access to the health-care system, especially for disadvantaged people (Viet Nam);**

114.132 **Strengthen health-care services to improve the life expectancy of newborns and reduce the child and maternal mortality rates (Peru);**

114.133 **Introduce a national HIV prevention strategy and work with civil society for its implementation (Australia);**

114.134 **Consider the adoption of a national strategy on HIV/AIDS (Israel);**

114.135 **Accelerate the adoption and budgeting of the national HIV/AIDS strategy 2018–2020 and the national strategy on sexual and reproductive health and rights (Germany);**

114.136 **Increase the budget for the national tuberculosis programme and change the legislation as necessary to treat all tuberculosis patients (Estonia);**

114.137 **Devote more resources to the education system in order to ensure full and equal access to quality education for all (Viet Nam);**

114.138 **Take all necessary measures to ensure accessible, inclusive, high quality education for all children without discrimination of any kind, including for minorities such as Roma and those in a vulnerable position (Finland);**

114.139 **Take further measures to ensure the access of all children to education (Iraq);**

114.140 **Increase the budget allocation for improving the education system and addressing the early school leaving phenomenon (Indonesia);**

114.141 **Continue supporting the training of teachers in the area of human rights education, in particular the rights of the child (Qatar);**

114.142 **Continue developing effective measures for the promotion of human rights education and awareness-raising (Armenia);**

114.143 **Implement and ensure equal access to mandatory gender equality and age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education within the formal education system (Australia);**

114.144 **Introduce education for sexual and reproductive health in the core curriculum for secondary education, including by setting out a concrete timeline of implementation of such a measure (Slovenia);**

114.145 **Take steps to introduce comprehensive and evidence-based sexuality education in the core curriculum for secondary education, as well as to ensure sufficient teacher training on sexuality education (Finland);**

114.146 **Further accelerate its efforts to promote and protect the rights of women (Mongolia);**

114.147 **Establish adequate legislative measures, which guarantee women's property rights after divorce, particularly in the case of unregistered marriages (Sierra Leone);**

114.148 **Take measures to promote the rights of women, in particular by addressing the recent resurgence of discourse containing stereotypes concerning women's rights to reproductive and sexual health (Belgium);**

114.149 **Ensure progress in the implementation of specific measures and follow up on their execution to guarantee the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda (Spain);**

114.150 **Adopt legislation that reflects the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, and adequately protects and assists victims through specialized services (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

114.151 **Harmonize fully its national legislation with the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) (Estonia);**

114.152 **Proceed with the activation of the legislative package elaborated by the National Agency for Equal Opportunities for the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) (Georgia);**

114.153 **Strengthen the efforts made to combat violence against women by way of information, prevention, protection of victims and punishment of the perpetrators (Iceland);**

114.154 **Step up efforts to protect women against violence, in law and in practice, including through prevention and accountability mechanisms, especially by means of effective emergency measures in favour of victims and their families (Brazil);**

114.155 **Ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of children and youth (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

114.156 **Introduce effective policies to address the issue of the large number of abandoned children left behind by parents working abroad (Japan);**

114.157 **Ensure free and quality education for all children, including Roma children, strengthen its efforts to protect the rights of all children and take necessary measures to stop violence and discrimination (Mongolia);**

114.158 **Improve effective implementation of the Deinstitutionalization Plan for Children in Residential Care and Ensuring their Transition to Community-based Care, with particular focus on prevention of institutionalization of children under the age of 3 (Montenegro);**

114.159 **Implement the Deinstitutionalization Plan for Children in Residential Care and Ensuring their Transition to Community-based Care and put in place a strong monitoring system (Albania);**

114.160 **Take further steps for the implementation of the 2016 Deinstitutionalization Plan for Children in Residential Care and Ensuring their Transition to Community-Based Care and expedite measures to broaden inclusive education for children with disabilities (Bulgaria);**

114.161 **Intensify efforts to prevent trafficking in children, in particular by training teachers and raising awareness among children through education, and paying special attention to poor communities and migrant children (Norway);**

114.162 **Intensify the work at the legislative level regarding the protection of children from violence and ensure timely identification and prevention of cruel treatment of children (Russian Federation);**

114.163 **Allocate the necessary human, technical and financial resources for the implementation of the national strategy for the promotion and protection of child rights 2014–2020 and of the related operational plan, with a view to reducing poverty, social exclusion and violence against children (Switzerland);**

114.164 **Develop special measures and provide the necessary financial resources to ensure comprehensive protection of street children and provide these children with real possibilities to receive education, medical support, housing and food (Belarus);**

114.165 **Strengthen legislative efforts to end child, early and forced marriage and sexual exploitation of children (Sierra Leone);**

114.166 **Guarantee specialized support services for children who have been victims of abuse and sexual exploitation (Chile);**

114.167 **Continue taking steps to combat child poverty and ensuring the well-being of children (India);**

114.168 **Adopt specific measures to reduce the exposure of children to the risk of poverty (Portugal);**

114.169 **Take the necessary measures to fight the poverty and social exclusion of children (Algeria);**

114.170 **Allocate adequate resources to ensure the effective functioning of the National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption (Slovakia);**

114.171 **Enhance efforts to protect persons with disabilities by renewing cooperation with expert NGOs and by conducting thorough investigations into allegations of abuse (Norway);**

114.172 **Improve the living conditions of persons with disabilities, in particular by facilitating their access to the labour market and adapting centres and other shelter mechanisms to their needs (Algeria);**

114.173 **Take appropriate measures to ensure the unhindered participation of persons with disabilities in the education system and in the labour market (Austria);**

114.174 **Create favourable conditions to enable national minorities to express and develop their culture and tradition in their own language, and take additional measures in the field of education for various minority groups, including Roma (Afghanistan);**

114.175 **Amend national legislation to ensure full compliance with all obligations and commitments related to the protection and promotion of human rights, including those of national minorities stemming from the ratification of minority rights treaties, including the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (Hungary);**

114.176 **Strengthen policies to guarantee the human rights to education and health to children from minorities (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

114.177 **Protect and respect the rights of national and religious minorities by returning their properties and ensure legal certainty in this context (Hungary);**

114.178 **Ensure full implementation of the law on public administration by clarifying the legal uncertainty about the threshold requirement for displaying street names and topographical signs in the minority languages (Hungary);**

114.179 **Guarantee the right to freedom of peaceful assembly of minorities without discrimination (Hungary);**

114.180 **Revise the curricula and the history textbooks to make sure that diversity of cultures and perspectives of minorities are reflected and that stereotypes and prejudices are eliminated (Hungary);**

114.181 **Ensure that school enrolment plans and the numerical threshold for the creation of classes are not used in a discriminatory way, while providing access to technical and vocational education in the minority language (Hungary);**

114.182 **Continue to promote the integration of the Roma community, including by implementing the national strategy launched for the period 2015–2020 (Italy);**

114.183 **Steadily implement its strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority 2015–2020, and strengthen education-related initiatives, such as the promotion of education for Roma children (Japan);**

114.184 **Continue to effectively implement the government strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority 2015–2020 (Maldives);**

114.185 **Increase the resources allocated to the implementation of the national strategy for the inclusion of the Roma minority (Spain);**

114.186 **Make efforts to increase the access of the Roma to education, the labour market and health-care services (Russian Federation);**

114.187 **Take appropriate measures to give full access to education, health care, employment and social inclusion to Roma children (Albania);**

114.188 **Take further steps to guarantee Roma children equal access to inclusive quality education, with the full participation of the Roma population (Iceland);**

114.189 **Implement measures aimed at strengthening the social inclusion of Roma people, including the participation of Roma children in the school system (Sierra Leone);**

114.190 **Provide sufficient resources to implement the strategy for the integration of the Roma (Belarus);**

114.191 **Step up efforts to involve children from the Roma community in education (Belarus);**

114.192 **Continue policies aimed at the inclusion of Roma children in the education and health-care systems (Georgia);**

114.193 **Take specific measures to assist the integration of the Roma population into society, in particular in the areas of education, health, employment and housing (Mexico);**

114.194 **Strengthen legislation to guarantee better attention to the needs of the Roma in the areas of the right to housing and the right to education (Côte d'Ivoire);**

114.195 **Step up efforts to improve the position of Roma people in line with the European Union framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020, for example in terms of ensuring access to education, appropriate housing and economic inclusion (Netherlands);**

114.196 **Develop an effective system to follow up the implementation of the National Strategy with clear measurable targets and assigned responsibility to follow up progress; consider introducing obligatory information in schools about the historic treatment of Roma; and develop programmes to counter negative stigma in schools, as well as in different public institutions (Sweden);**

114.197 **Implement the existing legal framework on segregation, and in particular expedite the concrete implementation of the national strategy for Roma inclusion 2015–2020 (Switzerland);**

114.198 **Collect disaggregated ethnicity data with a view to supporting the implementation of the strategy for Roma inclusion 2015–2020 (Brazil);**

114.199 **Continue implementing the recommendations of the universal and regional human rights treaty bodies, in particular with regard to creating favourable conditions to enable national minorities to express and develop their culture, traditions and customs in their own language, and further encourage knowledge of the history, traditions and culture of various minority groups (Ukraine);**

114.200 **Adopt a national strategy to raise awareness among the Romanian population about traditional harmful practices against women and discriminatory gender stereotypes (Uruguay);**

114.201 **Promote the rights of migrant workers and their families among national and global stakeholders with a view to considering ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

114.202 **Strengthen the protection of the rights of migrants and refugees, notably those relating to access to housing through specific measures (Senegal);**

114.203 **Adopt additional legislation in order to address practical barriers preventing access to education for asylum-seeking and refugee children (Afghanistan).**

115. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Romania was headed by the Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Alexandru Victor Micula, and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Csaba Ferenc Asztalos, President, National Council for Combating Discrimination;
- Mr. Daniel Rădulescu, President, National Agency for Roma;
- Mr. Lorin Ovidiu Hagimă, Director, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Ilie Cute, Expert Assimilated to Magistrates, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Răzvan Boştinaru, Expert Assimilated to Magistrates, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Doru Florin Cosman, Officer, National Prison Administration;
- Mr. Iulian Paraschiv, Head of Cabinet, National Agency for Roma;
- Ms. Claudia Virenfeldt, Counsellor, Ombudsman's Office;
- Mr. Cătălin Andrei Popescu, Prosecutor, Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice;
- Ms. Corina Marinescu, Counsellor, National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption;
- Mr. Dan Moldovan, Counsellor for European Affairs, National Agency for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men;
- Mr. Cristian Răileanu, Counsellor, Ministry of Labour and Social Justice;
- Ms. Mihaela Bujor, Public Manager, Ministry of Labour and Social Justice;
- Ms. Alexandra Nemeş, Counsellor, Ministry of Labour and Social Justice;
- Mr. Mihai Tomescu, Counsellor of the Minister, National Authority for Persons with Disabilities;
- Ms. Ioana Mihaela Dobre, Counsellor, National Authority for Persons with Disabilities;
- Ms. Viorica Preda, Inspector General, Ministry of National Education;
- Ms. Petronela Stoian, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Health;
- Mr. Adrian Strugariu, Head of Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- Ms. Raluca Erdinc, Inspector, Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- Mr. Adam Dinu, Counsellor, Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds;
- Ms. Adriana Petraru, Counsellor, Department for Inter-Ethnic Relations;
- Ms. Aniela Bologa, First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Adrian Vieriţu, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;

- Ms. Codruta Vierita, Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Albert Robu, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Ms. Laura Luca, Intern, Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.